

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-10 USSS-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /124 W

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O R 201717Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7620

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT PGOV SP

SUBJ: "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL SUSPENDED AS RESULT CARRERO DEATH

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. TRIAL OF "CARABANCHEL TEN" WAS
SUSPENDED TODAY AS RESULT OF DEATH OF PRESIDENT CARRERO
BLANCO IN EXPLOSION WHILE HE WAS RIDING IN AUTOMOBILE. MUCH
CONFUSION AT COURTHOUSE WHEN DEATH REPORTED, JUST AS TRIAL
WAS ABOUT TO START. VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS
WERE PRESENT AT COURTHOUSE INCLUDING 3 ENGLISHMEN, FOUR
FRENCHMEN, TWO CANADIANS AND ONE AMERICAN, WHO PRESUMABLY
WILL RETURN NOW TO HOME COUNTRIES. WHILE DEATH OF CARRERO
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BLANCO MIGHT BE RELATED TO DATE CHOSEN BY GOVERNMENT FOR

TRIAL, APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT MAJOR GROUPS INVOLVED, I.E. COMMUNIST PARTY AND MODERATE OPPOSITION, WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION (IF DEATH PROVES BE ASSASSINATION). END SUMMARY.

2. "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL THIS MORNING WAS SUSPENDED BEFORE IT EVEN FORMALLY COMMENCED, DUE TO DEATH OF PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO IN MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION WHICH DEMOLISHED PRESIDENT'S CAR AND REPORTEDLY ALSO KILLED HIS DRIVER AND BODYGUARD.

3. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS AT COURTHOUSE, PRELIMINARY LEGAL PROCESSING HAD COMMENCED IN COURTHOUSE, WITH CHALLENGES TO CREDENTIALS, PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ACTUAL TRIAL, WHEN NEWS OF DEATH OF CARRERO ARRIVED, AFTER WHICH JUDGE ANNOUNCED TRIAL SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

4. SOURCE SAID THERE MUCH CONFUSION IN CORRIDORS OF COURTHOUSE WHERE MOST OBSERVERS, PRESS AND OTHERS WERE WAITING TO BE ADMITTED TO TRIAL ITSELF. SOME OF OPPOSITION LAWYERS INVOLVED IN CASE, WHO WERE VISIBLY SHOCKED BY NEWS, WERE VERBALLY ABUSED BY SOME PRO-FALANGIST LAWYERS, SOME OF WHOM RAN THROUGH CORRIDORS SHOUTING SLOGANS SUCH AS "ARRIBA ESPANA" AND "NOW WE WILL THROW THOSE RED LAWYERS OUT.".

5. PRIEST IN CASE, FATHER GARCIA SALVE, HAD FINALLY BEEN BROUGHT TO MADRID FROM ZAMORA PRIESTS PRISON ON DECEMBER 18, TO STAND TRIAL.

6. OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, LONG LINES OF STUDENTS AND WORKERS WAITED ORDERLY TO SEEK SPACE IN COURTHOUSE, AND POLICE WERE OBSERVED PULLING OCCASIONAL PERSONS FROM THESE LINES AND ARRESTING THEM. SOURCE CLAIMED A SON OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, WAS ALSO ARRESTED THIS MORNING IN COURTHOUSE VICINITY.

7. SOURCE ALSO ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AT COURTHOUSE. AMONG THESE WERE THREE ENGLISHMEN, I.E., EDMUND MCGOVERN REPRESENTING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAYNTER, FORMER HEAD OF BRITISH MINER'S UNION, AND A LABOUR PARTY M.P. NAMED ARCHER; FOUR FRENCHMEN REPRESENTING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS' GROUPINGS; AND TWO CANADIANS, ONE AN ENGLISH SPEAKER WHO SAID HE WAS A CANADIAN M.P. BUT DID NOT GIVE HIS NAME, AND ANOTHER FRENCH-SPEAKING CANADIAN WHO SAID HE WAS A CANADIAN LABOR LEADER BUT ALSO DID NOT GIVE HIS NAME. SOURCE ALSO ENCOUNTERED ONE AMERICAN, NAMED HENRY FONER, WHO CLAIMED TO BE REPRESENTING

"AMERICAN UNIONS". (NOTE: CAN DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION WHETHER FONER MIGHT BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTING AFL-CIO, OR SOME INDIVIDUAL UNION). FONER CLAIMED FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK HAD PLANNED TO BE HERE, BUT HAD MISSED HIS PLANE THIS MORNING AND WOULD ARRIVE MADRID LATER TODAY. ALL FOREIGN OBSERVERS (SOME DOZEN OR SO) WERE PLANNING ON MEETING LATER TODAY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NOW THAT TRIAL IS SUSPENDED. BEST GUESS IS THEY WILL SIMPLY RETURN TO HOME COUNTRIES.

8. COMMENT: IT UNCLEAR WHAT RELATION, IF ANY, "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL AND RELATED STRIKES AND MANIFESTATIONS SCHEDULED TODAY MAY HAVE HAD WITH DEATH OF CARRERO BLANCO. PRINCIPAL GROUPS BEHIND "CARABANCHEL TEN" HAVE BEEN SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY AND MODERATE OPPOSITION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATE, SOCIALISTS, ETC. THESE GROUPS WERE COMMITTED TO MAKE OF "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL AN INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA SUCCESS AGAINST SPANISH GOVERNMENT. SEEMS UNLIKELY THEY WOULD TORPEDO THIS MUCH VAUNTED TRIAL ON ITS OPENING DAY WITH AN ASSASSINATION, LET ALONE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THEIR OWN EXISTENCE.
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